

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Aviation Safety Alert

No. 2002-21

August 19, 2002

Page 1 of 1

Subject: Retardant Fill Rate (Maximum – 500 gpm)

Area of Concern: Airtanker Operations

Distribution: All Aviation Personnel

Discussion: The National Airtanker Service Contract Section C.5.2 (6) (B) states: “All retardant tanks shall be capable of being filled in conformity with the certified retardant load through 3-inch diameter single or dual kamlock fittings on both sides of the aircraft or from the tail at a minimum fill rate of 400 to a maximum fill rate of 500 gallons per minute.”

Exceeding the 500-gallon per minute fill rate may result in certain aircraft to be overfilled and leak retardant.

/s/ Ron Hanks

National Aviation Safety and Training Manager

/s/ Asher Williams

National Aviation Operations Officer